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Appin No. 10/727245
Amdt. Dated: December 18, 2006
Response to Office Action of November 7, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's final Office Action of November 7, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying terminal disclaimer and Amendment to the claims, and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the different width printhead modules are arranged adjacent one another to form a page width printhead and that the printer controller compensates for the printing width difference in order to print across the page width. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in section 7.1.2 entitled "Bi-Lithic Printhead" at page 28, in section 9.1 entitled "Printing Rates" at page 42 and in sections 32.3, 32.4 and 32.4.1 respectively entitled "Data Rate Equalization", "Dot Generate and Transmit Order" and "Dual Printhead IC" at pages 518-521 of the present specification; and

dependent claims 2-4 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application, nor any new issues to the prosecution of the present application.

Regarding Non-Statutory Double Patenting Rejections

With respect to the Examiner's provisional non-statutory double patenting rejections of pending claim 1 over claim 1 of copending Application No. 10/727,163, the Applicant submits herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c); the present application and copending Application No. 10/727,163 being commonly owned by the Applicant.

Regarding 35 USC 102(e) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of above-discussed amended independent claim 1 is not disclosed by newly cited Teshigawara et al. (US 2002/0171709), for at least the following reasons.

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In the present invention, as clearly recited in amended independent claim 1, the abutting printhead ICs of different widths are arranged to define a printhead extending across a page width, e.g., A4. The combination of different width printhead ICs enables the construction of various width printheads using pre-manufactured printhead ICs. In use however, the order of and time for the transfer of print data to the different width printhead ICs is different, such that for the printhead to appear continuous across the page width, the printer controller is configured to compensate for this difference (see section 7.1.2 entitled "Bi-Lithic Printhead" at page 28, section 9.1 entitled "Printing Rates" at page 42 and sections 32.3, 32.4 and 32.4.1 respectively entitled "Data Rate Equalization", "Dot Generate and Transmit Order" and "Dual Printhead IC" at pages 518-521 of the present specification).

On the other hand, Teshigawara merely discloses a scanning recording head in which the back ink nozzle columns are longer than the other colored ink nozzle columns. This arrangement is disclosed as allowing faster printing of monochrome images (see paragraphs [0002], [0048], [0050] and [0051] of Teshigawara). As can be seen from Fig. 4, these different length nozzle columns are arranged as a scanning recording head, not as a page width printhead as required by amended independent claim 1.

Therefore, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-4 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Teshigawara.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claims 2-4 is not taught or suggested by Teshigawara in view of previously cited Hackleman and/or Kamoshida, for at least the above-discussed reasons and those discussed by the Applicant in the Replies to the previous Office Actions.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.


Very respectfully,

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